

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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S E C R E T THE HAGUE 3141

EXDIS

USIAEA

E.O. 11652: XGDS
TAGS: ENRG MNUC PARM TECH
SUBJECT: URENCO FUEL SUPPLY TO BRAZIL

REF: THE HAGUE 2958, THE HAGUE 3133 (NOTAL); STATE 128036

1. AS FOLLOW-UP TO PREVIOUS EMBASSY CONVERSATION WITH AM-BASSADOR-AT-LARGE DE HOOP SCHEFFER MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR RUTTEN BRIEFED DCM ON PRESENT STATUS OF DISCUSSIONS AMONG URENCO PARTNERS. ALTHOUGH RUTTEN BEGAN BY SAYING HE WOULD ANSWER QUESTIONS WE HAD RAISED LITTLE NEW GROUND WAS COVERED. PRESUMABLY FOREIGN MINISTER MAY PROVIDE SECRETARY WITH MORE DETAILED RUNDOWN IF REQUESTED PARIS MEETING IS ARRANGED.

2. RUTTEN INDICATED THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE MEETING OF THREE URENCO PARTNERS AT EXPERT LEVER JUNE 23. HE EMPHASIZED THAT DUTCH WERE TACKLING SPECIFIC SHORT-TERM PROBLEM TO DEVELOP SAFEGUARDS TO ACCOMPANY SUPPLY OF ENRICHED URANIUM TO BRAZIL; ON OTHER HAND PRESIDENT CARTER'S NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY WAS
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LONG-TERM IN NATURE AND DUTCH COULD NOT WAIT UNTIL OVERALL POLICY LEADING TO BANNING OF PLUTONIUM SUCCEEDED. RUTTEN ARGUED THAT AGREEMENT AMONG THREE URENCO PARTNERS AND BRAZIL TO PROCEED NOW WITH SPECIFIC SAFEGUARDS ARRANGEMENTS UNDER IAEA ARTICLE XLL A(5) NEED NOT CREATE PRECEDENT; IF AT LATER STAGE WASHINGTON POLICY SUCCEEDED SUCH ARRANGEMENTS WOULD NOT AFFECT LONG-TERM US OBJECTIVES. IT MIGHT EVEN TURN OUT THAT US WOULD SUCCEED

BEFORE BRAZIL GOT TO REPROCESSING STAGE.

3. APPARENTLY AS RESPONSE TO EMBASSY'S QUERY REGARDING PRECISE CHARACTER OF SAFEGUARDS DUTCH HAVE IN MIND RUTTEN REPEATED WHAT WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED. IDEALLY, AND PREFERRED APPROACH SO FAR AS UK AND FRG WERE CONCERNED, AND PRESUMABLY BRAZIL AS WELL, WAS WORLDWIDE, NON-DISCRIMINATORY ARRANGEMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL STORAGE REGIME UNDER IAEA CONTROL, WORKED OUT BY IAEA MEMBERS; DUTCH RECOGNIZED THAT US PARTICIPATION WITHIN IAEA ON SUCH A PROPOSAL COULD POSE DIFFICULTIES. ALTERNATIVELY, AD HOC ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE WORKED OUT BY FRG, UK, NETHERLANDS AND BRAZIL ACCORDING TO WHICH PARTIES WOULD AGREE THAT ANY PLUTONIUM PRODUCED IN BRAZIL WOULD BE COVERED BY SAFEGUARDS PROBABLY ADMINISTERED BY IAEA IN SPECIAL STORAGE FACILITY. DUTCH FULLY APPRECIATED DIFFICULTIES OF THESE APPROACHES FROM US STANDPOINT BUT WERE MOTIVATED BY NEED TO ENSURE SAFEGUARDS FOR ANY PLUTONIUM THAT MIGHT BE PRODUCED PRIOR TO TIME WHEN US POLICY MIGHT PREVAIL. RUTTEN EMPHASIZED THAT DUTCH HAD IN MIND MOST STRINGENT SAFEGUARDS AND INDEED ONLY AFTER THESE WERE ACCEPTED COULD URENCO AGREE TO SUPPLY ENRICHED URANIUM TO BRAZILIANS.

4. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT IF URENCO PARTNERS AND BRAZIL ARRIVED AT MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS GON WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT PARLIAMENT; AT THAT TIME IT WOULD BE SERIOUS MATTER IF WASHINGTON CRITICIZED AGREEMENT AS SERIOUS OBSTACLE TO SUCCESS OF CARTER POLICY, WITH WHICH DUTCH CONTINUED TO AGREE AS LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION WHETHER TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF DESIRED SAFEGUARDS HAD BEEN WORKED OUT
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RUTTEN SAID THAT PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH IAEA TECHNICIANS HAD TAKEN PLACE; THEY HAD INDICATED SAFEGUARDS WERE FEASIBLE PROVIDED POLITICAL AGREEMENT WAS ACHIEVED AND POSSIBILITY HAD BEEN DISCUSSED OF STORAGE FACILITY IN BRAZIL TOTALLY UNDER IAEA CONTROL.

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